

Message Text

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12

ORIGIN EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 EB-07 /056 R

DRAFTED BY EA:WHGLEYSTEN, JR.:MHS

APPROVED BY EA:PCHABIB

S/S:O:PJOHNSON

S/P:WLORD

NSC:RSOLOMON

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USLO PEKING IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CH, CB

SUBJECT: LI HSIEN-NIEN'S STATEMENT ABOUT U.S. "PIRACY"

DURING LUNCHEON CONVERSATION WITH PRCLO DEPUTY CHIEF HAN SHU, GLEYSTEN TOOK ISSUE WITH VICE PREMIER LI HSIEN-NIEN'S DESCRIPTION OF U.S. ACTION TO RECOVER MAYAGUEZ AND ITS CREW AS "OUTRIGHT ACT OF PIRACY". GLEYSTEN STATED THAT CAMBODIAN SEIZURE OF VESSEL WAS AN ILLEGAL ACT VIOLATING INNOCENT PASSAGE, AND U.S. MILITARY ACTIONS WERE IN ACCORD WITH RIGHT OF SELF-DEFENSE UNDER UN CHARTER. HAN AND COLLEAGUES ARUGED THAT CAMBODIANS HAD RIGHT TO STOP AND INSPECT VESSELS IN THEIR TERRITORIAL WATERS, THAT U.S. WAS AT FAULT "BECAUSE OF ALL THE BOMBS IT HAD DROPPED ON CAMBODIA," AND THAT U.S. WAS WRONG TO MOVE MILITARILY AFTER CAMBODIANS HAD ANNOUNCED INTENTION TO RELEASE SHIP AND CREW. GLEYSTEN REITERATED THAT CAMBODIAN SEIZURE WAS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ILLEGAL AND THAT WE COULD NOT TOLERATE SUCH INTERFERENCE

WITH INTERNATIONAL SHIPPING. HE ADDED THAT ON LEARNING OF CAMBODIAN BROADCAST, WE HAD ANNOUNCED THAT MILITARY ACTION WOULD CEASE AS SOON AS CREW WAS RELEASED. CONVERSATION WAS CALM AND CHINESE SEEMED TO AGREE TACITLY WITH POINT THAT US/PRC RELATIONS WOULD BE BETTER OFF WITHOUT SUCH INCIDENTS. KISSINGER

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